

Remarks/Arguments

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-14, and 21-24 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 10, 11 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The Applicants reserve the rights to file continuation or divisional applications directed to the subject matter for all withdrawn/canceled claims. Consideration and allowance of the pending claims is hereby requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph Rejections

The examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-14, and 21-24 for the use of the indefinite article 'an'. Claims 1, 8, 10, 11, 14 and 22 have been amended as suggested by the examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the objection is now moot.

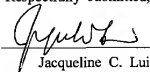
35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections

The examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 10 as being anticipated by Bouchonnet *et al.* Claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 10 have been amended as suggested by the examiner. The claims now recite a pure peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1. Applicants respectfully submit that the objection is now moot.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office action of record. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacqueline C. Lui

Registration No. 44,214

Customer No. 56,374

Tel : (866) 624-4715 Fax : (212) 419-2303

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